

PRESIDENT URGES PEACE.

TALKS TO COUNT CASSINI.

*Would Be a Mistake for Russia to
Fight On, He Says.*

Washington, June 2.—In a conference at the White House this afternoon with Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, President Roose-

welt express'd the earnest hope that Russia would forthwith conclude peace with Japan. Prolongation of the war, he believes, will not result in victory for the Russian arms and can only serve to increase Japan's demands and render more difficult the drafting of a treaty of peace which the Czar, as well as the Mikado, can sign. The President spoke, he said, as the friend of Russia no less than of Japan, and on behalf not only of the Washington government, but in the interest of humanity. Until his words have reached Tsarskoe-Selo and have been communicated to Emperor Nicholas in the friendly spirit in which they were uttered, their effect cannot be estimated. Soon after returning to the Embassy, Count Cassini began the preparation of a dispatch to his government. Neither at the White House nor at the Russian Embassy could a formal statement regarding the conference be obtained.

Throughout the diplomatic corps there is a strong hope that to-day's conference marks the first step toward peace, but the general opinion is that weeks may elapse before even preliminary negotiations can begin. Diplomats express the hope that Emperor Nicholas will receive the President's words "as the course of that government which for years has been Russia's traditional friend, and will weigh it accordingly."

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE.

White House at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. He was ushered at once into the Blue Room, where he was joined immediately by the President and a conference followed, lasting until after 3 o'clock.

Appreciating the natural feelings of the Ambassador on such an occasion, the President began the conversation by a frank personal ex-

pression of sympathy for Count Cassini, alluding to the severe strain under which he has been for the last few days, and deploring the terrible loss of life and consequent sorrow caused by the recent battle of the Sea of Japan.

Without further preliminaries a general and entirely informal and personal conversation of the whole situation followed. The President in

formed the Ambassador that he earnestly hoped for early peace in the Far East, and that in expressing this hope he voiced not only his personal sentiments and those of this government, but he believed they were held by all the powers. His opinion was that it would be a mistake for Russia to continue the war. He did not believe, he said, that Russia had anything to gain in prolonging hostilities. He did not go in

What Japan's probable peace terms would be the President was unable to say, but he did not hesitate to express the opinion that, difficult as these conditions might prove, in the light of such a victory as that gained in the Korean Strait, they would increase in severity with regard to the war continued. Unless Russia had

Briefly, and in paraphrased form, these were the arguments used by the President in support of his conviction that, as between continuation of the war and immediate peace, the latter was more conducive to Russia's advantage.

CASSINI THINKS PEACE FAR OFF.

Having received no word from his government since the destruction of Rojestvensky's fleet, except the brief official dispatches telling of the battle, Count Cassini was unable to do more than express his personal opinion.

than give the President the opportunity to speak on the situation. The Ambassador was deeply touched by the sincere cordiality of his reception and the frank and friendly manner in which the President spoke. He could not see, however, that there was anything in the present situation unfortunate as it undoubtedly was for his government which made it necessary for Russia

to sue for peace. He pointed out that China and not Russia had been the loser in territory for even Port Arthur was held only under lease.

It was the Ambassador's firm opinion that

this was not "the psychological moment" which to discuss peace with Japan. Whatever might be the ultimate decision of his government, he took the ground that Russia could lose

nothing by waiting or by continuing the war on land. There was still hope of a victory for the Russian arms, he said, and, in any event, Russia had not yet lost one foot of territory nor was the Russian frontier endangered.

source as to Japan's probable terms, and that these demands, as stated unofficially, were "altogether impossible." If Japan's terms should prove anything like so severe as they have been reported, it was the Ambassador's opinion that

Russia could advantageously continue the war indefinitely, and eventually win a victory of land. That his government would so decide he did not wish to predict, but at last accounts the Emperor favored continuation of the war.

Thus the conversation continued for more than half an hour, being characterized throughout

frankness and friendliness. Later on, when the Ambassador has heard from his government after communicating the President's views as to the President's willingness to render Russia all service possible in initiating peace negotiations with Japan, he will have another talk with the President. From the White House the Amba

sador went for a long drive in the country. On returning to his embassy just in time to receive Baron Mayor des Planches, the Italian Ambassador.

sador, who spent some time with him. Later the evening the Ambassador entered upon the preparation of the dispatch to his government regarding his visit to the White House.

I had a most cordial conversation with President this afternoon, during which the wh

situation in the Far East was discussed informally and in a general manner. No peace overtures were received from Japan, nor were a

Commencing June 12th, the through train, N. York to Bar Harbor, connecting at Portland principal Maine resorts, will leave Grand Central Station, N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., at 8:00 p.

ul | daily, except Sundays, due Portland 6.30 a. m.,
Harbor 2.00 p. m. Pullman Sleepers.—Adv.